

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to further recite that the bottom section and body section of the container are formed “seamlessly without welding and ensuing heat treatment.” Basis for this is inherent in the description that the bottom section and body section of the thick bottomed container are formed integrally by hot-dilating a metal billet in a container for forming. Bottom and body sections resulting from the dilation of a billet are inherently seamless.

Claims 59-61, 63-65, 67, 71-75, 77-82, 106, 109-111, 114 and 116 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. patent 4,579,274 (Anspach et al) in view of U.S. patent 5,848,111 (Wells) and U.S. patent 4,836,934 (Homer). It is noted, however, that the prior art fails to teach the presently claimed feature whereby the bottom section and body section of the container are formed “seamlessly without welding and ensuing heat treatment.” For example, the radiation container 3 of Anspach et al is only illustrated schematically (col. 2, lines 7-8) and is not taught as being seamless. Wells and Homer also fail to teach this newly recited feature.

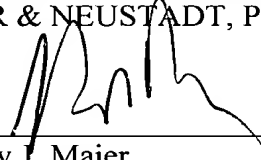
Applicants note the comment in the Office Action that product by process limitations are not given weight. This presumably refers to the recitation of hot-dilating a metal billet. However the presently amended claims further recite an *apparatus* limitation, i.e., “seamless,” and so structurally define over the prior art.

Concerning the rejection of dependent Claims 64, 72, 77, 81 and 85 as being obvious over Anspach et al in view of Kirchner et al, it is noted that Kirchner et al provides no suggestion for modifying Anspach et al to have a seamless construction and so the claims define over any combination of these references.

Applicant therefore believes that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicits an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099
Attorneys of Record